

THE CASTAWAYS V.,. n

as one can keep one's stomach one
mustn't
even if there is nothing to put in it!
Now, if one
hadn't got a stomach left, even if there
were plenty
to put in it—that would be really
serious ! "

Two hours passed. The boat had not
moved a
cable's length, for there was only the
motion of
the swell to affect her. Now the swell
does not
move forward ; it merely makes the
surface of the
water undulate* A few chips of wood
that had been
thrown over the side the day before
were still
floating close by, and the sail had not
filled once
to move the boat away from them.

While merely afloat like this, it was of
little use
to remain at the helm. But the
boatswain de-
clined to leave his post. With the tiller
under his
arm, he tried at least to avoid the
lurching which
tilted the boat to one side and
another, and thus
to spare his companions excessive
shaking.

It was about three o'clock in the
morning when
John Block felt a light breath pass
across his
cheeks, roughened and hardened as
they were by
the salt sea air.

" Can the wind be getting up ? " he
murmured
as he rose.

He turned towards the south, and,
wetting his
finger in his mouth, held it up. There
was a dis-
tinct sensation of coldness, caused *by*
the evapora-
tion and now a distant rippling sound
became
audible*